

Application No.: 09/986,975

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A washing apparatus comprising:

(a) a driving side base (7) having a rotary drive unit (8) and a speed reducer (14);

(b) a washing tank (1) having a stirring blade (2) which comprises a disk with protrusions formed thereon and which is rotatably connected to a shaft of the rotary drive unit; and

(c) a connection structure for detachably coupling the driving side base and the washing tank, wherein the speed reducer is installed in the driving side base and is also disposed between the rotary drive unit in the driving side base and a rotatable transfer joint connected to the rotary drive unit, said speed reducer being configured to reduce the rotating speed of the rotary drive unit and transmitting the reduced rotating speed to the rotatable transfer joint, and

wherein a rotational drive of the rotary drive unit is able to transmit to the stirring blade when the washing tank is mounted on top of the driving side base.

2. (Currently amended) A washing apparatus comprising:

(a) a driving side base (7) having a rotary drive unit (8) and a second transfer joint (10), the second transfer joint being connected to the rotary drive unit and able to rotate, wherein the driving side base further comprises a speed reducer (14) installed between the rotary drive unit and the second transfer joint, said speed reducer being configured to reduce the rotating speed of the rotary drive unit and transmitting the reduced rotating speed to the second transfer joint; and

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(b) a washing tank (1) for storing the laundry,

where the washing tank includes:

an opening formed at the upper portion of the washing tank;

a rotatable shaft (5) piercing through the bottom of the washing tank;

a rotatable stirring blade (2) which comprises a disk with protrusions formed thereon and is disposed on the shaft inside the washing tank; and

a first transfer joint (6) disposed on the shaft, outside the bottom of the washing tank, and serves to transfer a rotational drive to the stirring blade,

wherein the washing tank is detachably mounted on top of the driving side base and also separated from top of the driving side base; and

when the washing tank is mounted on top of the driving side base, the first transfer joint and the second transfer joint come to engage each other such that the stirring blade rotates when the rotary drive unit is operated.

3. (Previously presented) The washing apparatus of claim 2, wherein the stirring blade is fitted to an upper end of the shaft;

the first transfer joint is connected to a lower end of the shaft; and

when the washing tank is mounted on the driving side base and the rotary drive unit is operated, the rotational drive of the rotary drive unit is transferred to the stirring blade via the second transfer joint and the first transfer joint, thereby the stirring blade is rotated.

4. (Canceled)

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5. (Original) The washing apparatus of claim 1 or 2, wherein the driving side base further has a control means (16) for controlling the rotation of the stirring blade.
6. (Original) The washing apparatus of claim 1 or 2, wherein the washing tank further comprises a grip portion (17) disposed close to the opening.
7. (Original) The washing apparatus of claim 1 or 2, wherein the washing tank has at least one water level line (18) formed on the inner wall thereof, and the water level line indicates the level of the wash water poured into the washing tank.
8. (Previously presented) The washing apparatus of claim 1 or 2, wherein the washing tank has at least one wash assisting convex (19) portion disposed nearly vertically close to the bottom of the inner wall thereof.
9. (Original) The washing apparatus of claim 1 or 2, wherein the washing tank further includes a cover (20) disposed at the opening, the cover being able to open and close.
10. (Original) The washing apparatus of claim 9, wherein the cover has a lock mechanism (21) to keep the cover closed.
11. (Withdrawn) The washing apparatus of claim 9, wherein the cover (20b) has a hole (23) for draining wash water in the washing tank, and

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when the washing tank is inclined or turned upside down, the wash water is discharged out of the washing tank.

12. (Withdrawn) The washing apparatus of claim 11, wherein the cover (20c) further includes a draining rib (24) disposed at an exterior side of the hole.

13. (Withdrawn) The washing apparatus of claim 11, wherein the cover (20d) further has a projection (25) disposed at the washing tank side of the hole, and
the projection may prevent the hole from being closed with the laundry.

14. (Withdrawn) The washing apparatus of claim 1 or 2, wherein the washing tank (1d) further includes a bottom drain hose (26) disposed nearly at the lower portion of the washing tank, and
the drain hose is used to discharge the wash water out of the washing tank.

15. (Withdrawn) The washing apparatus of claim 14, wherein the washing tank (1d) further comprises a lower cut-off valve (29) disposed in the drain passage of the bottom drain hose, and
the lower cut-off valve serves to control the drain.

16. (Withdrawn) The washing apparatus of claim 1 or 2, wherein the washing tank (1e) further includes a feed water passage (30) disposed near the upper portion of the washing tank, and
the feed water passage supplies water into the washing tank.

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17. (Withdrawn) The washing apparatus of claim 1 or 2, wherein the washing tank (1f) further comprises an upper drain hole (32) disposed near the upper portion of the washing tank, and an upper drain hose (33) connected to the upper drain hole.

18. (Withdrawn) The washing apparatus of claim 17, wherein the washing tank further comprises an upper drain cut-off valve (34) disposed in the drain passage of the upper drain hose (33a), and the upper drain cut-off valve serves to control a drain.

19. (Previously presented) The washing apparatus of claim 1 or 2, wherein the driving side base (7c) has a guide (34) disposed at a top of the driving side base, and when the washing tank is mounted on top of the driving side base, the guide is connected to a lower portion of the washing tank.

20. (Original) The washing apparatus of claim 19, wherein the driving side base (7d) further includes a tank fixing support portion (36),

the washing tank (1g) further includes a tank fixing portion (37),

the tank fixing support portion and the tank fixing portion forms a tank fixing lock mechanism, and

the washing tank is fixed on the driving side base by the tank fixing support portion and the tank fixing portion.

21. (Previously presented) The washing apparatus of claim 1 or 2, wherein the driving side base (7e) further comprises a connection detector (39) and a controller (40);

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the connection detector serves to detect a connection and separation between the driving side base and the washing tank (1h); and

the controller serves to control a rotation of the rotary drive unit (8) with the output from the connection detector.

22. (Previously presented) The washing apparatus of claim 1 or 2, wherein the driving side base (7f) comprises a protective projection (41) disposed so as to cover a periphery of the second transfer joint (10).

23. (Withdrawn) The washing apparatus of claim 1 or 2, wherein the driving side base (7g) includes a drain passage (42) disposed at top of the driving side base, and
the drain passage serves to discharge a water staying around the second transfer joint.

24. (Withdrawn) The washing apparatus of claim 1 or 2, wherein the driving side base (7h) further comprises an internal drain passage (43) disposed inside the driving side base,
the washing tank further (1I) has a drain hole (45) provided with a drain valve, and
at a state that the washing tank is mounted on the driving side base, the drain valve opens, then the washing tank and the internal drain passage are connected with each other via the drain hole.

25. (Withdrawn) The washing apparatus of claim 24, wherein the internal drain passage (43a) includes a drain control valve (50) to control the drain, and a drain control device (51) to control the drain control valve.

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26. (Withdrawn) The washing apparatus of claim 25, wherein the driving side base (7j) further includes at least one of a water level detector (52) to detect the wash water level in the washing tank (1i) and a draining time adjusting device to set a specified drain time, and

the wash water is automatically drained when at least one of the water level detector and the draining time adjusting device is actuated.

27. (Withdrawn) The washing apparatus of claim 1 or 2, wherein the driving side base (7k) further comprises an internal feed water passage (53) disposed in the driving side base, a water supply means (54), and at least one of a detector (57) and a water supply time adjusting device (58) disposed in the internal feed water passage;

the detector serves to detect the level of wash water in the washing tank;

the washing tank (1j) includes a washing tank feed water passage (56) having a feed water passage valve (55); and

only at a state that the washing tank is mounted on the driving side base, the feed water passage valve opens, then the washing tank and the internal feed water passage are connected with each other via the feed water passage valve, and the water is automatically supplied when at least either one of the water level detector and the water feed time adjusting device is actuated.

28. (Withdrawn) The washing apparatus of claim 1 or 2, wherein the driving side base (7m) and the washing tank (1k) are structurally such that the driving side base can be stored in the washing tank.

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29. (Withdrawn) The washing apparatus of claim 28, wherein the driving side base (7n) further has a storing grip portion (59).

30. (Withdrawn) The washing apparatus of claim 28, wherein the washing tank (1m) has a holding convex (60) disposed on the inner wall of the washing tank, and the holding convex serves to hold the driving side base

31. (Withdrawn) The washing apparatus of claim 30, wherein the holding convex has a shape such that the holding convex also serves as a wash assisting convex.

32. (Withdrawn) The washing apparatus of claim 1 or 2, wherein the driving side base (7p) further includes a battery (61) to supply electric power to the rotary drive unit.

33. (Withdrawn) The washing apparatus of claim 1 or 2, wherein the driving side base (7q) is storable under a floor (62) or in a closet drawer (63).

34. (Withdrawn) The washing apparatus of claim 1 or 2, wherein the driving side base (7r) further includes a change device (64, 65) which is able to change the rotating speed and ON-OFF time of the driving side base (8) at least in two steps.

35. (Withdrawn) The washing apparatus of claim 1 or 2, wherein the washing tank is small-sized so that the user may easily carry the tank.

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36. (Withdrawn) The washing apparatus of claim 1 or 2, wherein the washing tank is formed from at least either plastic mold or metallic workpiece.

37-44. (Canceled)